

Intimations.

DAKIN BROS. OF CHINA,
LIMITED,
CHEMISTS, &c.
COD LIVER OIL JELLY.

THIS is a sweet and exceedingly palatable
Jelly easily retained and digested by the
most delicate stomach. Children speedily grow
fond of it and ask for more, and although it con-
tains 50 per cent. of the purest Cod Liver Oil, all
baby taste and favour is entirely covered.

In glass jars at 75 Cents.
COD LIVER OIL "GENUINE"
NORWEGIAN.

This is without exception the finest oil that
can be produced. Great care is taken in select-
ing healthy livers only in its manufacture, and as
we buy direct from the manufacturers, we are
able to guarantee it "Genuine".

Per bottle, 75 Cents and 1.25.
COD LIVER OIL EMULSION.

A form in which the oil may be taken without
difficulty by delicate patients and children.

Per bottle, 75 Cents and 1.25.
COD LIVER OIL EMULSION WITH
HYPOPHOSPHITES (Lime and Soda).

A combination of great value in wasting dis-
eases, especially of the Chest and Respiratory
Organs.

Per bottle, 75 Cents and 1.25.
BALSAM OF ANISEED AND LIQUORICE.

For the relief of all catarrhal complaints, such
as Coughs, Colds, Hoarseness and Soreness of
the Throat, &c.

Per bottle, 75 Cents and 1.25.
BALSAMIC COUGH LOZENGES.

A never failing remedy for Coughs.
In bottles, 50 Cents.

Nos. 22 & 24, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

WE invite attention to the following Brands,
all of which are excellent quality and
good value for the money.

The same being specially selected by our
London House, and bought direct from the most
noted Shippers, are imported in wood and bottled
by ourselves, thus enabling us to supply the best
growths at moderate prices.

In ordering, it is only necessary to state the
name and quantity of Wine or Spirit wanted,
and initial letter for quality desired.

PORTS. (For Invalids and general use).

Per Case. Per Bot.

A. Alto Douro, good quality, Green Capsule, \$10.00

B. Vintage, superior quality, Red Capsule, 12.00

C. Fine Old Vintage, superior quality, Black Seal Capsule, 14.00

D. Very Fine Old Vintage, extra superior, Violet Capsule, 18.00

SHERRIES.

A. Delicate Pale Dry, dinner wine, Green Capsule, 6.00

B. Superior Pale Dry, dinner wine, Green Capsule, 7.50

C. Manzanilla, Pale Natural Sherry, White Capsule, 10.00

C. Superior Old Dry Pale Natural Sherry, Red Seal Capsule, 10.00

D. Very Superior Old Pale Dry, choice old wine, White Seal Capsule, 12.00

E. Extra Superior Old Pale Dry, very finest quality, Black Seal Capsule (Old Bottled), 14.00

CLARETS.

A. Superior Breakfast Claret, Red Capsule, 4.50

B. St. Estephe, Red Capsule, 4.50

C. St. Julien, Red Capsule, 7.50

D. La Rose, Red Capsule, 11.00

MADEIRA, HOCK AND CHAMPAGNES.

FULL PARTICULARS OF THE VARIOUS BRANDS
IN STOCK ON APPLICATION.

BRANDY.

A. Hennessy's Old Pale, Red Capsule, \$13.00

B. Superior Very Old Cognac, Red Capsule, 15.00

C. Very Old Liqueur Cognac, Red Capsule, 20.00

D. Hennessy's Finest Very Old Liqueur Cognac, 1875 Vintage, Red Capsule, 30.00

SCOTCH WHISKY.

A. Thorne's Blend, White Capsule, 8.00

B. Watson's Glenorchy, Mellow Blend, Blue Capsule with Name and Trade Mark, 8.00

C. Watson's Aboulen-Glenorchy, Red Capsule, with Name and Trade Mark, 8.00

D. Watson's H. K. D. Blend, the Finest Scotch Malt Whiskies, Violet Capsule, 10.00

E. Watson's Very Old Liqueur Scotch Whisky, Gold Capsule, 12.00

IRISH WHISKY.

A. John Jameson's Old, Green Capsule, 8.00

B. John Jameson's Fine Old, Green Capsule, 10.00

C. John Jameson's Very Fine Old, Green Capsule, 12.00

Genuine Bourbon Whisky, fine old, Red Capsule, with Name, 10.00

GIN.

A. Fine Old Tom, White Capsule, 4.50

B. Fine Unswartened, White Capsule, 4.50

C. Fine A. V. H. Geneva, 5.25

RUM.

Finest Old Jamaica, Violet Capsule, 7.00

Good Goodland Island, \$1.50 per Gallon.

LIQUEURS.

Benedictine Maraschino

Curacao Heering's Cherry Cordial

Chartreuse Dr. Slegert's Angostura

Bitters, &c.

PRICES ON APPLICATION.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
Kowloon, 4th February, 1892.

For Sale.

NOW READY.

THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY AND
HONG LIST FOR THE FAR EAST
FOR 1892.

[PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.]

THIS Valuable Work, with many NEW
ADDITIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS,
IS NOW READY.

PRICE THREE DOLLARS.

Orders for Copies of THE "HONGKONG
DIRECTORY" may be sent to the following
Agents:

HONGKONG: Mr. W. Brewer,
Messrs. F. Blackhead & Co.,
Messrs. Heermann, Herbst & Co.,
Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Limited,
Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co.,
The Hongkong Trading Co., Ltd.,
Man Yu Tong, Hollywood Road.

MACAO: Messrs. A. A. de Mello & Co.

AMOI: Mr. N. Moalle.

FORMOSA: Mr. H. W. Churchill.

FOOCHOW: Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Limited,
Shanghai.

SHANGHAI: Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Limited,
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JAPAN: Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Limited,
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BANGKOK: Rev. S. J. Smith.

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PARIS: Messrs. Amélie Prince & Co.

LONDON: Messrs. Sayle & Co., Limited.

or to
"THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" OFFICE,
Pedder's Hill,
Hongkong, January 23rd 1892.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1892.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s steamer *Gwalior* left
Singapore yesterday at 5 p.m. for this port.

THE British surveying vessel *Egeria*, Captain
A. M. Field, returned here from a cruise to-day.

MR. Fraser, H. M. Consul at Fochow, arrived
here by the *Hafan*, Capt. Bathurst, this morning.

THE *Hafan*, which arrived from coast ports
to-day, passed H.M.S. *Rambler* at anchor off the
Nile Pines this morning.

A REGULAR meeting of St. John's Lodge, No. 618,
S.C., will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zetse
Street, on Saturday, the 12th instant, at 8 for
8.30 p.m. precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially
invited.

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THE Superintendent of the P. & O. S. N. Co.
informs us that the Company's steamer *Malacca*
left London for this port on the 2nd inst.

"GENDARME" whose letter appeared in last
night's issue, evidently "got the wrong row by
the car," for we are now reliably informed that
the members of the Force have not been
prohibited from practising for the tug-of-war on
the grass plot at the Central Station. They can
tug there till all at black, after office hours, but
not as at the first practice, at 3 o'clock in the
afternoon.

THE title of the White House at Washington
was strangely bestowed. Soon after it was
built it was proposed to call it the Palace,
but this was opposed as favouring of Royal
interference, and tending towards government
by an aristocracy. Congress determined
that it should be called "The Executive
Mansion." It became known as the White
House because, when rebuilt after the British
soldiers had partly destroyed it, it was painted
white to hide the black traces of smoke and
flame upon the freestone walls.

MR. J. E. Elphick, M. R. C. V. S., writes as
follows in the *Strait Times*:—Infants in a
mild form is now attacking horses and ponies
in Singapore, the symptoms being a slight sore
throat (angina) accompanied with a distressing
cough and in some cases discharge from the
nostrils. Treatment for such cases is "mild
blister to the throat" and the following powder
in the horse's food, which may be damp, night
and morning:—*Nitrate of Potash & Soda*,
Sulphur Sub. & Soda, and in a few days the
horse will be all right. It is dangerous in these
cases to administer any medicines by pouring it
down the throat of the animal, in which case it
would very likely enter the windpipe or trachea
and cause death from its irritant effects.

THE Philadelphia Public Ledger of January
18th says:—Dr. Edward Beddoe, United States
Consul at Amoy, China, is here to confer with
the State Department in relation to the treat-
ment of Americans in China, and other matters
of national concern in the Orient. A few of Dr.
Beddoe's friends gave him a dinner last night at
Chamberlain's, those present being Senator
Blackburn, Henry Watterson, Representative
Allen, of Mississippi; Frank A. Richardson, of
the *Baltimore Sun*; O'Brien Moore, of the
Louis Republic; Dr. Corwin, of the *Chicago
Tribune*; Fred D. Mussey, of the *Cincinnati
Commercial Gazette*; William E. Annin, of the
Salt Lake Tribune; Frank G. Carpenter, of the
New York Herald; E. G. Dunnell, of the *New
York Times*; P. V. De Graw, of the United
Press Association; James R. Young, of the
Philadelphia Star, and John M. Carson, of the
Philadelphia Ledger.

WORK on the Kowloon Railway is being pushed
ahead. There are already some 300 coolies
employed on the earthworks on the first ten
miles, and 250 more between the 4th and 8th
kilometres. The *Times* of Bangkok considers
it probable that the first thirty miles will be
constructed by Chinese coolies, locally engaged.
Mr. Bagall, C.E., returned from Kowloon a few
days ago, and reports that the country is
extremely open, resembling Queensland con-
siderably. There will be one heavy cutting
between the 50th and 70th kilometres, involving
the removal of some 600,000 cubic metres of
earth, but there will be no others so important,
and no tunnels needed. Fifty miles of rails
have already been ordered by Mr. Murray
Campbell from England, and one locomotive
for hauling ballast-trucks. The tendering will
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departure from the land of Railway Scandals. He has laboured long, and with success, upon the crooked and all-pervading path of diplomacy, and returns to enjoy in dignified ease the fruits of his hard won victories. The departure of H. I. G. M. Minister-Resident will be the cause of regret to his fellow countrymen, whose interests he has ever jealously guarded and in whose estimation he stands so high. It is ever a difficult task to fill the position of responsible Minister with complete satisfaction to all concerned, and that difficult task is now reduced when the departing Minister has won the respect and esteem of his compatriots, and the admiration of other nations. The cordial relations between the Chinese Government and the German Minister-Resident, have rendered his tenure of office in Siam a mere pleasure. There is no field in Siam for his brilliant diplomatic talents, and no reason new for maintaining a Minister-Resident at the Court of King Chulalongkorn; hence, the Germans of Bangkok will in future be represented by a plain Consul. Mr. Flügge will take charge of the German Legation during the absence, or retirement, of his distinguished chief, who, wherever his diplomatic duties may lead him, will look back to Bangkok as the city of his choice, and to Siam as the land of his desire.—*Siam Free Press.*

NEWCHANG.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

February 23rd.
Our continued cold weather is about the only topic of the day, except perhaps the question, "What is this disease that is overtaking nearly everybody?" Most of us think it is the influenza. Whether it be so or not, the fact remains that the whole community has been, or is more or less affected by illness of some kind or other. There are two deaths to record in the plague service, and there will therefore be two vacancies to fill up next season. The examination is fixed for 4th April next, as per notice of the Customs. The China New-Year holidays which commenced on 30th ult., are in full swing, and regularly amongst servants will be in absence for some days yet. It is decidedly the most unpleasant time of the year for foreigners, who are expected to give presents, but not to receive any *quid pro quo*. As for business, that goes to the wall for the time.

We are endeavouring to recover from the effects of the gloom caused by death and rumours of rebels, etc. In a few days a musical and dramatic performance will take place, and then with the anticipation of soon having warmer weather and looking forward to the opening of the port "Richard will be himself again." We hear that the principal bands of robbers or rebels have been well decimated, and that those who escaped have gone beyond the border and into the Emperor's forests. It is said that the insurgents at one time numbered more than 30,000, and that at least 10,000 have been killed, no mercy being shown to prisoners: only about 1,000 Imperialist soldiers having fallen. The converts (Roman Catholics) of whom some 500 or 1,000 were murdered, and the thousands of poor villagers, whose families and homes are ruined, are not taken into account. The residences, temples, etc., owned by French and Belgian missions have been destroyed in the regions where the fighting and robbery took place, and it is only fair to suppose that the Government will make some compensation for the losses. The rising, or whatever it may be called, is proof sufficient of the weakness of the Government, and although its being put down so quickly, may be a proof of its strength also, there can be no doubt that, given good and determined leaders, as in the days of the Taipings rebellion, the present dynasty could not possibly be overthrown unless England interfered, as she did before, and thus cause the murder of the three Wangs by the very man (Li Hung-chang) who is looked upon as such a loyal friend.—*N. C. Daily News.*

NANKING.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

February 23rd.
Since the China New Year the two district magistrates have been changed. The Shanyuen Magistrate is promoted to the position at Halcow, and the other magistrate is transferred to another district. The Shanyuen Magistrate, who was in the district all the foreign residences are located, has made himself very agreeable to the community not only by his country in inviting all the gentlemen to a feast at his *yamen* but also by the prompt despatch of any official business. His reputation among the people is good and he well deserves his promotion.
The Feast of Lanterns was observed this year with more than the usual *glitz*. Five dragons, each perhaps 30 feet in length, were formed by a succession of large lanterns carried on high poles and bound together by loose flowing cloth of brilliant colours. Each pole was carried by a man and swung back and forth as they paraded the streets. Several representations of fishes and birds were in the processions, which were composed wholly of the soldiers and small military officials. Drums and gongs led the way and fire-crackers were constantly exploded. It rained in the day and the chief *yamen*, where the men were given rooms to sleep, was lit by lanterns were all lighted. It was especially a gala day for the soldiers.

February 24th.
The case of the expectant Taoist Li Hsien-mo, which is now pending trial, has been already noticed in your columns in two extracts translated from the *Shing-pao*, but is deserving of more extended notice. During the search for the leader of the *Kolan Hut*, which has been kept up persistently since the troubles of last spring, a small military official, Wan Sung-ling, who acts as a detective in connection with the Viceroy's *yamen*, came forward saying that he knew the leader and could easily find him. He declared that the leader's name was Li Hung, which was but an *alias* for the real name of Li Hsien-mo, that he was a son of the noted Li Chang-shao, that he had served in the northern army under Li Hung-chang, that he was at present residing in the province of Anhui, and that he lived in the district of Tsang-shan. Wan also affirmed that all the money used by the society was furnished by this man Li. The report was of course startling but was given credence for the reason that the informer Wan is himself a reputable highway robber, who was pardoned a few years ago on account of his turning States' evidence and revealing the names of his fellow robbers. Since the time of his pardon, he has been engaged in bringing to justice his former companions, so that when he affirmed that he knew the leader of the *Kolan Hut* it was readily believed to be probable. Accordingly the Viceroy at once issued warrants for the arrest of Li Hsien-mo, and he was forthwith brought to Nanking. The Provincial Treasurer, Shui Fui-tai, was deputed to hear the case, and Li was also of official rank, he was careful in his methods. The Treasurer hit upon the plan of placing Li in a large hall and calling upon Wan to pick out his man from the number. When brought to the hall, Wan did not recognize any one of these men, whereupon

Li Hsien-mo stepped out from their midst and, approaching the man Wan, asked if he did not recognize him. The man replied that he did not. Li then told him that he was the man whom he accused of being Li Hung, but Wan had nothing to say except that he had mistaken his man. This roused the anger of the Treasurer and he at once ordered that Wan should be arrested and handed over to the Shanyuen magistrate for imprisonment. He also went at once to report to the Viceroy the result of his examination and to recommend that Li Hsien-mo be discharged and exonerated from guilt. For some unknown reason, however, the Viceroy was unwilling to release him, but ordered that he be confined in the examination hall until the prefectural gao, which has not been used since the Taipings rebellion, could be prepared to receive him. Large bodies of soldiers were also placed on guard and two expectant officials were detailed to spend the day in conversation with him. The Prefect Li Hsien-hsien, the former Shanghai magistrate, and another expectant magistrate were ordered to try the case. They have already held several sittings but no definite conclusion has been reached. It is, however, commonly known that nearly all the leading officials have urged the Viceroy to discharge the case, but that he has persistently refused to do so and even become angry with them for urging it.

The man Li Hsien-mo has high and influential connections. He is an adopted son of Liu Ming-chuan, ex-Governor of Fomosa, who has offered to stand at his elbow. As soon as Li Hsien-mo heard of the affair, he also to the Viceroy Li Hsien-mo that he would guarantee the man. The Governor of Honan and the Governor of Anhui also signified their willingness to become sureties. Even with these bondsmen and on the advice of his subordinate officials, Viceroy Liu is still unwilling to release him.
Additional interest is added to the case by the history of Li Hsien-mo's father, the late Li Chang-shao. He was a native of Honan and was reckless from his youth. Being of great strength and fond of fighting, he was constantly embroiled in troubles. At the time of the breaking out of the Taipings rebellion, he gathered about him a small band of companions and began to pillage. Soon this band grew to large proportions and he was able to capture several places until finally he was the master of several prefectures in the provinces of Honan, Anhui and Kiangsu. He took the name of King and was known as the *Sia Wang*. Constantly he was sought both by the rebels and the Imperialists but he was unwilling to join either party. He appointed subordinates over all the places he had conquered and collected regular taxes. He also bought up the land from the people at nominal rates and farmed it out to his soldiers. When the Imperialist leader Prince Seng, who had been originally a Mongolian Lama priest, began his campaign against the rebels, Li Hsien-mo used his best efforts to persuade Li Chang-shao to repent and join the Imperial forces. His efforts were finally successful, and Li came over to the loyal ranks. He was at once raised to the position of General-in-Chief, was given a Yellow Riding Jacket and several other marks of distinction. He was also soon appointed Admiral of the Yangtze, but being unwilling to accept the position returned to private life. On account of former troubles, he could not return to his home in Honan, and hence selected the district of Tsang-shan in the province of Anhui, where he built a splendid residence. Of his own accord he restored to the crown more than a million taels of taxes which he had collected and also restored much land to the original owners whom he had previously forced to sell. These deeds together with his constant benevolence brought him into great favour with the people. However, he still retained his old love of quarrelling and was constantly in trouble with another noted General, Ch'en Kwai-ch'ui, who also lived in retirement near him. About ten years ago his maternal uncle who was living with him became involved in a quarrel with a neighbour, who in revenge entered Li's residence, swallowed poison, and died. The case was brought to light and Li Chang-shao was accused of killing the man. The local magistrate reported it to the Governor of the province who at that time was Yu Lu, and also to Viceroy Li Kuang-shan. After a few months, when everything was quiet and all thought that the case had been dropped, Li Chang-shao went to the capital, Nanking, to present his respects to the Governor. He was received in good form and invited to an elaborate feast. He accepted the invitation, little expecting that it was his death-trap. He was seized, confined in prison, a hasty memorial to the Throne was prepared, in which he was charged with the murder of his nephew, and Li Chang-shao suffered death. The reason was never made public, but happening almost at the same time as the condemnation at Nanking of the General Chang K'i-lin by the Viceroy Liu, it has always been supposed that there was some unknown cunning between the Viceroy and Li Hsien-mo to the family between the Viceroy and Chang. At least it is certain that it was on the strong recommendation of Viceroy Liu and Governor Yu Lu that the hasty sentence was passed. Those who know of the father's case and realize that the son is now in the hands of the same Viceroy under even more serious charges than his father, feel doubtful of the outcome. However, there is hope that justice will be done since the son has such good connections and since the present Treasurer, who is a relative of the Empress Dowager, is convinced of his innocence. The Viceroy will need to move very carefully in the matter, for his own personal safety upon it may be considered as a life.

February 24th.
The case of the expectant Taoist Li Hsien-mo, which is now pending trial, has been already noticed in your columns in two extracts translated from the *Shing-pao*, but is deserving of more extended notice. During the search for the leader of the *Kolan Hut*, which has been kept up persistently since the troubles of last spring, a small military official, Wan Sung-ling, who acts as a detective in connection with the Viceroy's *yamen*, came forward saying that he knew the leader and could easily find him. He declared that the leader's name was Li Hung, which was but an *alias* for the real name of Li Hsien-mo, that he was a son of the noted Li Chang-shao, that he had served in the northern army under Li Hung-chang, that he was at present residing in the province of Anhui, and that he lived in the district of Tsang-shan. Wan also affirmed that all the money used by the society was furnished by this man Li. The report was of course startling but was given credence for the reason that the informer Wan is himself a reputable highway robber, who was pardoned a few years ago on account of his turning States' evidence and revealing the names of his fellow robbers. Since the time of his pardon, he has been engaged in bringing to justice his former companions, so that when he affirmed that he knew the leader of the *Kolan Hut* it was readily believed to be probable. Accordingly the Viceroy at once issued warrants for the arrest of Li Hsien-mo, and he was forthwith brought to Nanking. The Provincial Treasurer, Shui Fui-tai, was deputed to hear the case, and Li was also of official rank, he was careful in his methods. The Treasurer hit upon the plan of placing Li in a large hall and calling upon Wan to pick out his man from the number. When brought to the hall, Wan did not recognize any one of these men, whereupon

Li Hsien-mo stepped out from their midst and, approaching the man Wan, asked if he did not recognize him. The man replied that he did not. Li then told him that he was the man whom he accused of being Li Hung, but Wan had nothing to say except that he had mistaken his man. This roused the anger of the Treasurer and he at once ordered that Wan should be arrested and handed over to the Shanyuen magistrate for imprisonment. He also went at once to report to the Viceroy the result of his examination and to recommend that Li Hsien-mo be discharged and exonerated from guilt. For some unknown reason, however, the Viceroy was unwilling to release him, but ordered that he be confined in the examination hall until the prefectural gao, which has not been used since the Taipings rebellion, could be prepared to receive him. Large bodies of soldiers were also placed on guard and two expectant officials were detailed to spend the day in conversation with him. The Prefect Li Hsien-hsien, the former Shanghai magistrate, and another expectant magistrate were ordered to try the case. They have already held several sittings but no definite conclusion has been reached. It is, however, commonly known that nearly all the leading officials have urged the Viceroy to discharge the case, but that he has persistently refused to do so and even become angry with them for urging it.
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HOBBLING THE PRESS.

While the existing law of libel which prevails in this colony remains unaltered, it is almost impossible to expect a courageous, free, and enlightened Press. Few people have any idea of the numerous pitfalls that beset an editor of a "live" newspaper. The needy adventurer, politician or otherwise, who in some way or other has contrived to bring his name before the public, is ever on the alert to catch a newspaper, especially one with a substantial proprietor at its back. The law is very indulgent to this class of litigant, and, moreover, the lawyers have taken care to give the word libel such a conveniently expansive definition—or rather want of definition—as to render it almost impossible for a newspaper to keep out of its meshes. How seldom one hears of anyone instituting proceedings for what is popularly called criminal libel. No, a pecuniary solatium is always essential to the injured plaintiff in a newspaper libel case, and the speculative lawyer is at hand to take his ill-used client's character into court to be whitewashed—or blackened, as may sometimes be the case. The present law of libel is a fruitful source of income to the legal fraternity. It would astonish the majority of our readers to know what behind the scenes and show them what a big newspaper has to pay annually to its lawyers in connection with the libel law alone. A writ for libel is the editor's veritable "booby-man," and its presence at a newspaper office is regarded with horror and dread by all interested in the concern. If any writ were needed of the crying necessity for a stringent reform in the present law, it is only necessary to look at the class of men and women

who come forward as plaintiffs, and it must be admitted, the class of lawyers who too often advise them. No apology, however, handsome, will soothe their wounded feelings, their prospects in life (they never had any before the service of the writ) have been wrecked, and nothing will satisfy the injured plaintiff but substantial damages, which he too frequently gets, for somehow or other judges don't seem to love newspaper men. Even supposing that the plaintiff's action is a frivolous one, he can put the newspaper to a very heavy expense by persisting in going to trial. He has everything to gain, nothing to lose, and the glorious uncertainty of the law in his favor besides. The case goes to trial, the plaintiff loses, or gets only nominal damages, and each side pays its own costs. The newspaper's bill of costs is sure to be three times that of the plaintiff's, and this sort of thing repeated at intervals throughout the year makes a big hole in the profits, and renders not only the proprietor and editor, but the editor and his staff, disinclined to run any risk whatever, and to rather evade the truth than speak it forth manfully and fearlessly. Can anyone wonder then that a newspaper run by an excessively nervous or cautious proprietor often becomes emasculated, that it loses its force and influence which give to that power and dignity which should be its hall mark? No newspaper can afford to overlook the fact that there is in its existence a commercial and speculative element as well as a literary and philanthropic, and it is due to this that a reform of the present libel law is urgently needed. Instead of newspapers being blacklisted whenever they speak the truth and uphold the right, they should be supported by the law of the country and not discouraged. Again, instances are by no means uncommon of a writ for libel being issued against a journal, the editor or manager of which may have incurred the spite of some of the party taking the action, and this solely with a view of damaging the journal in the eyes of the proprietor, and putting the latter to heavy expense. There is one alteration which must form an integral part of any reform of the libel law, and its adoption cannot fail to minimise the number of frivolous and malicious actions taken for libel against newspapers, many of which, if they do not go to trial, still entail a very heavy expenditure. We refer to the right of disavowal. We have seen the proprietor in chambers, the plaintiff should deposit security for costs. We do not say that any judge ought immediately to grant what seems so reasonable a request, but we claim that it should be left to judicial discretion to decide whether the plaintiff, being unable to provide security, has sufficient grounds of action, and is justified in putting the defendant to the heavy expense inseparable from a libel action. No man because he is poor should be debarred from appealing to the law to vindicate his honour, but as at present there is a shady, sort of element of speculation about the great majority of libel suits which the law never intended to provide for, and a judge would be sadly lacking in judicial acumen if he failed to be able to discriminate between a *bona fide* action and a speculative one. It will not be denied that this journal has done much to strengthen and resuscitate the Press of this city, but few people know what having the courage of his opinions has cost it. Neither will it be denied that a daily paper, run on the same courageous line as the *Sunday Times*, would be a great boon to the community, but the element of uncertainty and risk which the present law of libel imports to such an undertaking easily explains why it has not been carried out before this. Let the libel law be stringent, by all means, but let it be just, and let it be purged of that vicious feature which makes it possible for speculators to gamble with the honour of a daily paper, and the result will be that the law will come along and assert that he has been libelled, and that what he calls his "character"—usually an unknown quantity—has been damaged. If the public wish to have a Press alert, vigilant, courageous, upright, and capable of conserving and safeguarding the rights of the people, then the present law of libel in this colony is one of the greatest hindrances to such a happy consummation.—*Sydney Sunday Times.*

INTERNATIONAL MALICE.

It is a curious and not altogether agreeable task to read the English Conservative or Union newspapers and perceive the ill-digested pleasure they take in the famine in Russia. They regard their great eastern rival as hampered in respect to military movements, as in danger of bankruptcy, which will be certain should the harvest fail the coming season; and they think that they will fill in the thought uppermost in their minds. It is true there are occasional famines in Ireland, where the scenes witnessed are not excelled in horror by anything to be witnessed in Russia at the present moment; that there is a local famine in India, and a greater one in prospect owing to the want of rain, but it makes an awful difference whose animal is gored, you know. It is also true that we have it on the authority of some of the London newspapers that 30,000,000 of the inhabitants of India exist in a state of starvation bordering on famine, but the English press does not in general discuss this topic; it being far less agreeable than the misfortunes of the East and its subjects. It is an exaggeration to say that for unfairness, meanness, vindictiveness in their treatment of foreign affairs, the Tory and Unionist journals do not find their parallel in any country in the world. It is equally true that the English press has been bound-slave of the triple alliance, by whose permission, or rather under whose high protection, it carries out its plans and keeps the diplomacy of the world in a chronic state of anxiety and irritation.

England—and we say "England" instead of "the English," for it is the fault of its external politics rather than of its people—is the most beloved country in the world, no man from what quarter of the globe can really doubt that. Among the native newspapers of India there is not one of the London Times, etc., which confesses, that has a kind word to say about their rulers. A few years ago the *Times* gave a great quantity of pertinent extracts to prove the assertion. The assertion is now revived without the extracts, as in the present condition of international sentiment it would not be discreet to publish them. In Persia the feeling among the people is bitter, as known by the picture of the use of tobacco furnished by the British monopoly which was obliged to resign the privilege in the interior but still allowed that of exportation. This did not satisfy the priests, who continued the interdiction. There have been riots hostile to the English, and it looks at present as if the company would be obliged to quit the country. Even the London newspapers do not venture to assert that the Persian entertain similar sentiments toward the Russians. Russian diplomacy meets the same opposition in Afghanistan, which the English have for some years past been looking on as a conquered country. They placed the present Amier on the throne, and have paid him, as London newspapers assert, as the price of his friendship 1,200,000 rupees; that is over half a million dollars. These same newspapers also inform us that the Amier is really a Russian traitor, which is not surprising when we consider that Russian territory is so near, and that the Amier is on the point of concluding a commercial treaty with the Czar. This, nevertheless, does not change the intention entertained by the English

of using the Amier and his country to aid them in settling the question of the Panist at the expense to be held at St. Petersburg in the spring. The fact is the English have no right whatever to the territory in that debatable land claimed by Russia, and can only accomplish their purposes by means of Afghanistan and China, which no more than England, have any rights at present or have ever exercised any in that desolate region. China, English newspapers say, has already been induced to declare that if Russia takes the part of the Panist, some of her trade routes to India will be closed. The influence that elicited this wonderful avowal was, of course, obtained by pressure exercised or promises made at Peking, and the Chinese envoy to the St. Petersburg conference will be expected so to express himself to that assembly. When the Afghan envoy is expected to declare or what claim he will be expected to put forward to territory to which the Amier never had and never expected to have the slightest title, has not yet been stated in the London newspapers, though they have divulged the fact that an army of forty thousand men is being collected on the north-western frontier of India with liberal supplies of provisions and ample means of transport. This army is doubtless to be held ready for any contingency, that is, to overawe the Amier into playing the part of a pliant tool of England at the Panist conference, or to hurry forward into the debate region should circumstances seem to favor such a movement. Another million rupees will probably be squandered on the Amier, though this liberality will have slight effect in modifying the deep and vindictive hatred of his people toward the English. Here we see British diplomacy in its true light, deliberately equipping an army for war, while if Russia simply moves a regiment from one part of the country to another for the convenience of its maintenance, or because her system of strategic railroads, owing to the extent of her territory, is more inconvenient than that of her neighbors, all the newspapers of the British Isles unite in a howl of execration at Muscovite treachery and the intention of the Czar to bring at once upon Europe all the horrors of a general war.

It is interesting to note that English writers are not agreed on the propriety of pushing the frontier of India farther out into the mountains of the Pamirs. Some of the dailies, no matter if the English are held by the people of that country and the certainty that there would be continual rebellions which would necessitate the presence of a large army and the expenditure of untold treasure. It is impossible to see just at present what British diplomacy will not be tempted to do from hatred, or rather fear, of Russia. As a specimen of petty malice, however, the open opposition to any contributions for the purpose of relieving the starving Russian peasants is most characteristic of the sentiment of a certain class of English people. Such a movement has been set on foot by Mr. Knowles, the editor of the *Nineteenth Century* and has elicited from the London *Chronicle* bitter opposition on the ground that the money contributed would, by checking the ravages of the famine, indirectly aid in augmenting military resources of the Czar and still further endanger the Indian empire. In other words, let Russia be depopulated, no matter by what means, so that India is safe. To this favor, British diplomacy gradually reducing the natural generosity of the English character.—*S. F. Chronicle.*

HOW I HAVE BEEN PROPOSED TO.

I am a girl, twenty-three years of age, and it has been my fortune to have had six proposals of marriage made to me. I have rejected all my suitors, not because I dislike the idea of marriage, nor because all who proposed were disagreeable to me, or, in my opinion, unworthy of me, but for the simple reason that I love some one who was not one of the number. Let me say, in justice to myself, that I am not a coquette. I did not seek to have wooers. My first suitor was a boy of eighteen, and the way in which he proposed was—"I say, Mary, do you think it would be jolly if you and I were to get married?" I didn't think it would. He was awfully wretched, poor fellow, for a fortnight but he didn't die of a broken heart, as he said he should. The next was a young couple. He laid the way to the point by scrip and scraps. "Miss D—," he said, "I don't want to leave thee, for I don't want to follow thee after thee are very beautiful." I said that they were of a certain class of English people. Such a movement has been set on foot by Mr. Knowles, the editor of the *Nineteenth Century* and has elicited from the London *Chronicle* bitter opposition on the ground that the money contributed would, by checking the ravages of the famine, indirectly aid in augmenting military resources of the Czar and still further endanger the Indian empire. In other words, let Russia be depopulated, no matter by what means, so that India is safe. To this favor, British diplomacy gradually reducing the natural generosity of the English character.—*S. F. Chronicle.*

Animations.

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the heroine was me—and the conclusion was to be as decided. I was really sorry for him, for he was one of those fearfully sensitive men—clever, though eccentric—worthy of a woman's love, and sorely needing it. I had a good cry all to myself, after he had gone, for I am sure he suffered much.

My next offer was made by letter. It seems to me that there is something wrong with a man who is afraid to propose in person, and takes refuge in writing. I could never consent to marry one who dared not ask me to be his wife looking me in the face.

I rejected all of these, because, as I have said, I loved some one else who was not one of them. I am grieved to think that I must have caused pain to some, but my conscience is clear. I never, consciously, encouraged any of them to fall in love with me.

THIS WILL SETTLE THE QUESTION.

"I don't believe there is a word of truth in it!"

That's the way certain foolish people talk when they hear of anything unusual, or outside the limits of their own observation of experience. They are of that sort who, when they hear of a new discovery, or a new invention, or a new method of doing things, they say, "I don't believe there is a word of truth in it!"

Some months ago the case of Mrs. Mary Caddy was first published. The great public accepted the facts as they had every reason to do. Others, a very few, professional men perhaps, pretended to doubt, and sent emissaries to inquire of the lady herself, whether her allegations had not been added to, or altered, for the sake of popular effect.

Here is her answer! She repeats what she at first said, and puts a *quieten* on all who called her words in question. It will be observed that her statement is as plain and solemn as language can make it.

[Cont.]

My Mary Caddy, of 25, Catherine Street, Richmond Road, Leeds, do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:

Ever since I was a girl I have suffered from illness. I always had a pain both before and after eating, and never seemed able to gain and keep my strength, and that something was pulling me down. I had a nasty queer feeling in my stomach. Sometimes food seemed to ease it, and at other times it made me feel worse, and often I went without food, for I was afraid to eat. Commonly when food was placed before me I could not touch it, and I often fainted at the very sight of it. After a while I became so weak I could scarcely stand or walk. I thought it was consumption coming on by degrees and I took all sorts of medicines to try and get relief, but it was of no use, and I got tired of taking physic, for I had lost all faith in it. My husband, who was a very good man, and who I loved very much, observed that I would have laid in bed, so weak had I become. With the weakness and loss of appetite there were other feelings and signs that were bad and alarmed me greatly. Among them were these:—A yellowish colour of the skin and eyes, sometimes cold clammy perspiration, pains and aches in the bones, the chest and back, sometimes a kind of wind or gas coming up into my throat and mouth that was so sour and sickening I could scarcely bear it. Once in a while I would have a strange dithering and palpitation that made me think my heart must be affected. My heart would thump so that I feared it would jump out of its place, and I had to lie down for two or three hours at a time, for I could not sit or lie. The pain was so severe that I have asked my husband if he could not hear my heart thumping as I walked about. I was almost dead at night, and frequently had horrible dreams, and was so melancholy and depressed in spirits that I sometimes thought of nothing but death. I was so weak and nervous that I had no pleasure at all in doing anything. I had so little energy or strength that it was all I could do to summon courage for the labour upon which the family (at least in part) depended for support. I am a dressmaker, and it will be readily understood how hard my life was, for I didn't think it would last much longer. Not long ago (Mary, I made up my mind to try a medicine that is advertised and known all over the country. I took Mother Selge's Curative Syrup. I had no faith in it at first, for how can one believe in what one knows nothing about? I bought and tried Mother Selge's Curative Syrup only because of its reputation. How could I make people believe in what I myself had never tried? I asked myself, "What a medicine so much if it had no virtue?" I can only say that I found what they said to be true. After beginning with the Syrup, relief soon followed. My food digested better and gave me strength, and by persevering with it all my pains disappeared. I could eat my food with a relish, and everything agreed with me. Now I feel a touch of my old complaint I take a dose of two or three of Mother Selge's Syrup and the trouble goes no further. Since the publication of my testimonial many persons have called at my house and asked me if I still felt as I published about my case is true, and if the Proprietors of Mother Selge's Syrup had made additions to my statement.

I told them all that every word was true and nothing had been added by the Proprietors of the medicine, but I would add a good deal more, for no words can describe what my sufferings were during all those long years. I never expected being well again in this world. Mother Selge's Syrup saved my life and I desire other sufferers to know of what did so much for me. I will gladly answer inquiries.

I made this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declaration Act (Will. IV., c. 62).

(Signed) MARY CADDY.

Declared before me at Leeds, in the County of York, by the said Mary Caddy, on Monday, the 10th day of August, 1891.

(Signed) ALAN COOK, Mayor of Leeds.

Not a syllable further is needed except to say that her illness, indigestion and dyspepsia, burdens and sadness the lives of many other women (and men also), who will read with new hope the outcome of Mrs. Caddy's case, and place a confidence in the curative power of the remedy, which restored to her the health and happiness that Providence designs for all who will.

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Not a syllable further is needed except to say that her illness, indigestion and dyspepsia, burdens and sadness the lives of many other women (and men also), who will read with new hope the outcome of Mrs. Caddy's case, and place a confidence in the curative power of the remedy, which restored to her the health and happiness that Providence designs for all who will.

(Signed) MARY CADDY.

If the sufferers from Consumption, Scrofula and General Debility will try Scott's Emulsion of Pure Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites, they will find immediate relief, and a permanent benefit. The Medical Profession in the various countries of the world universally declare it a remedy of the greatest value, and as it is very palatable it can be readily taken by the most sensitive stomach, and will never fail to give relief and comfort to the sufferer. Any Chemist can supply it. A. S. Watson & Co. (Limited), Agents in Hongkong and China.—*Advt.*

To-day's Advertisements.

WOODYEAR'S AUSTRALIAN CIRCUS, BOWRINGTON.



ANOTHER CHANGE OF PROGRAMME.

THIS EVENING, (SATURDAY), the 5th March.

NEW RIDING ACTS. NEW AERIAL ACTS. NEW JAP. ACTS.

First Time of the Popular Sketch, "GOOD DAY, BOSS!"

TO-DAY, (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON, 5th March, MATINEE FOR SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES.

Doors open at 2.30. Commence at 3 p.m.

N.B.—All inmates of Charitable Institutions are cordially invited to our Afternoon Performances free of charge by

MADAME WOODYEAR, Proprietors.

W. HARLAND, Managers.

Hongkong, 5th March, 1892. [245]

